



Series: DIVING DEEPER
April 23, 2017

Pursuing Transformation

Primary Scripture: Romans 8:29 (HCSB)

For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

Additional Scripture: Psalm 51:10, Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 4:19, 1Timothy 4:7-8

The concept of transformation is more than just a word or a matter of human higher thinking. It is the change of our spiritual image to align with the image of Jesus Christ. It has a specific beginning with our personal consecration/total surrender and continues through the sanctifying/purifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to produce holiness of heart. We are saints in the making as we pursue our personal relationship with the Living God through intentional spiritual disciplines in every area of Christian living. Spiritual Disciplines provide the conditions for Gods Transforming work within us. Paul says, “Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 (HCSB). Our part is in the practice of spiritual disciplines to set the stage for God to do His transforming work in our hearts. Transformation is the work of God within us preparing us for His invitation to be an active part of the Kingdom work He is doing among us.

Discussion:

The real evidence of God at work in the individual and the body of Christ (our church) is what attracts the pre-Christian to the church. Transformed lives that emanate the presence of the living God cannot be counterfeited nor imitated. It is the awareness of the living God in the lives of His Children that makes them attractive to those who are not yet a part of His Kingdom.

1. We speak of transformation. How would you explain this to a pre-Christian or a person who is unfamiliar with it?
2. Transformation requires action on our part. What spiritual disciplines can set the stage for God to do transformational work in the heart of the individual?
3. What spiritual disciplines have been most helpful in your life to allow God to do His work in you? Explain the practice and what has happened to you personally.
4. Are you seeing God continually at work in your heart? Are you still being transformed in His Image?
5. How does the practice of spiritual disciplines impact the corporate life of our church?

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Mission Mandate: Follow Christ, Connect Hearts, Love One Another